

PK-6th



Spirit & Truth

*Worshipping God through
the Lutheran Liturgy*



Teacher's Guide

Spirit and Truth:

Christmas Program

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Spirit and Truth

Christmas Program

Dear Sunday School Staff:

Merry Christmas! Welcome to the *Spirit and Truth: Christmas Liturgy and Program*. Christmas programs are a wonderful tradition in many churches, teaching generations the amazing story of Christ's birth. This Christmas Program is a little different than many of the programs available. Instead of handing you something that the students can memorize and perform, these materials give you, the Sunday school staff and students, the tools you need to create your own student-led Christmas liturgy and program that fits your goals and context.

Since the purpose of this whole curriculum is to teach students about worship, the liturgy, and the church year, this Christmas Program focuses less on a performance for the adults and more on how students can lead the whole congregation in worshipping Jesus, the newborn King. These materials are designed to replace a standard Sunday morning service, but if that is not your congregation's desire, you may certainly adapt these materials to create a Christmas worship service whenever you wish to schedule it. Feel free to use all or just part of these materials depending on your size and desires, or to include teenagers and adults in your program.

On the following pages you will find descriptions of the different parts of the liturgy or program, details on the leadership roles for students, and a sample program for those who do not have the time to design their own program.

May you and your students have a blessed Advent and a Merry Christmas!

Gregory Rawn
Writer and Publisher

Liturgy and Program Worksheet

| ✓ | Title | Provided | Est. Time | Time |
|--------------------------|--|----------|-----------------|------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Welcome/Announcements | x | 2 min. | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Greeting | x | 1 min. | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Song/Hymn (How many? _____) | | 5 min. each | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Song/Hymn (Offertory) | | 1 min. | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Prayer of the Day | x | 1 min. | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Students Tell the Story (How many? _____) | x | 10 min. each | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Skit | x | 10 min. | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Prayers | x | 5 min. | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Peace | x | 2-5 min. | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Offering | | 2-5 min. | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Lord's Prayer | | 1 min. | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Benediction | x | 1 min. | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Dismissal | x | 1 min. | |
| | | | Total: | |



Descriptions



Welcome/Announcements

Can be done by pastor or teacher and can include the following, or similar, description.

L: Blessed Advent and Merry Christmas to you all! In Sunday school this year we are learning about worship, the liturgy, and the church year. So, our Christmas program will be a little different this year. The students and teachers have been working hard not only in practicing the program, but also in creating parts of it! It is our prayer that this program will help you celebrate our Savior's birth and worship him in spirit and truth!

Greeting

Read by a student, teacher, or pastor.

L: May the peace of the Lord Jesus, the baby in the manger, be with you all.

C: And also with you.

Song/Hymn

Choose 4-5 Christmas songs or hymns. Some combination of teachers, music leaders, and students can pick songs/carols/hymns. Perhaps each class can nominate a song before Advent begins. Please focus on making this a worshipful experience for the students rather than something the students view as a chore. Some congregations have the students sing the first verse and the congregation joins in for the rest.

Here are some suggestions:

- † Come, O Come Emmanuel (ELW #257)*
- † Joy to the World (ELW #267)*
- † Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (ELW #270)*
- † Away in a Manger (ELW #277)*
- † Silent Night (ELW #281)*
- † Angels We Have Heard on High (ELW #289)*
- † Go Tell It on the Mountain (ELW #290)*
- † Little Drummer Boy (lyrics available online)*



Prayer of the Day

Read by a student, teacher, or pastor.

Almighty Father, **you sent your Son, Jesus, into our world as a baby to show us your love. Teach us every day how much you love us. We love you. We thank you. We worship you. Give us hope for each new day and for your promise that you will come back for us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Students Tell the Story (STTS)

Assign a portion of the Christmas story to different Sunday school classes and have them figure out how to best communicate the story to the congregation (using the Children's Sermon Planning method from Lesson #L8, summarized in Appendix A (PK-2nd) and Appendix B (3rd-6th)). Students can act while a narrator reads, make it into a skit, use stuffed animals/props, etc.

There can be as many STTS portions as there are classes and/or time in the service.

The principle texts (stories) for STTS should be:

- † Luke 2:1-7 (Jesus' birth)*
- † Luke 2:8-20 (The shepherds and angels)*

Additional texts could include:

- † Luke 1:26-38 (Jesus' birth foretold)*
- † Matthew 1:18-25 (Jesus' birth)*
- † Matthew 2:1-12 (Visit of the Wise Men-Technically for Epiphany)*

Skit

One class and/or selected actors from multiple classes can perform the provided skit in place of a sermon.